ACCELERATING THE SOLDER PASTE EVALUATION PROCESS

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ABSTRACT

Solder paste can make or break the profitability of SMT processes. Using the proper chemistry is critical to a successful operation. Because solder pastes have so many different characteristics that affect their assembly line performance, they can be cumbersome and costly to evaluate. As a result, many assemblers are using mature formulations that have since been improved upon, simply because they don't have the resources to properly evaluate new, more process- or product-friendly materials.

This paper proposes a new solder paste evaluation regimen that helps engineers assess up to 25 solder paste properties on their assembly line in 5 hours or less.

KEY WORDS: solder paste, solder paste evaluation, solder paste qualification, SMTA test board, SMTA test vehicle, solder paste test kit.

INTRODUCTION

Why change solder pastes?

Because defects like solder balls, tombstones, skews, bridges, and voids can all be caused by the paste formulation. Process engineers and specialists can try changing stencil designs, padstacks and reflow profiles to mitigate defects, but if the solder paste is not a good match to the process or board design, their opportunities for improvement are severely limited. Upgrading to newer formulations has been shown to instantly reduce paste formulation-related defects.¹

Why not change solder pastes?

The costs of line time, test assemblies, and technical resources add up fast. There's also the risk of overlooking a critical property of the paste and choosing the wrong one for the job, especially because there are no accepted industry test methods to determine paste performance on an actual assembly line.²

The SMTA Test Kit project was developed specifically to address paste-related cost concerns. It is a comprehensive standardized test which gathers information in a time efficient manner and enables customized, data-driven decisions on the best product for a given process.

Figure 1 shows the vision of the turnkey test kit.

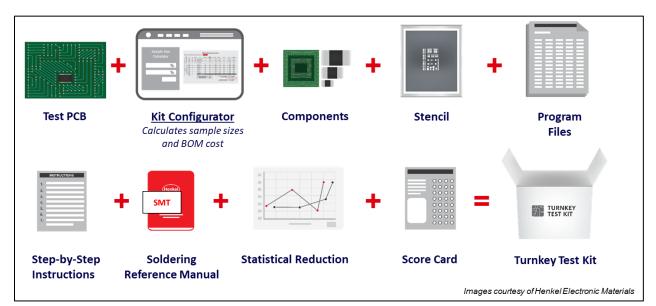


Figure 1.Solder Paste Evaluation Test Kit contents

TEST VEHICLE DESIGN

The SMTA Miniaturization Test Vehicle (MTV) is shown in Figure 2. The top side, or populated side, contains numerous miniaturized components:

- Eight 0.3 mm BGAs
- Nine 0.4 mm BGAs
- Ten 0.5 mm BGAs
- Four blocks of 008004 (0201M) components (100 each)
- Eight blocks of 01005 (0402M) components
- Eight blocks of 0201 (0603M) components
- Ten 0.4mm MLF components
- Additional 0402s, 0603s, and 1206s

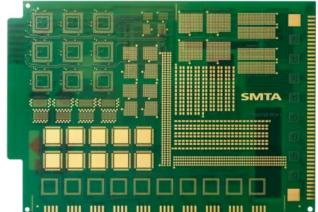


Figure 2. Test PCB Top Side

The bottom side, or unpopulated side shown in Figure 3, contains numerous paste property tests:

- Wetting
- Spread
- Slump
- Bridging
- Fine feature Printability (PTF or Print-To-Fail)

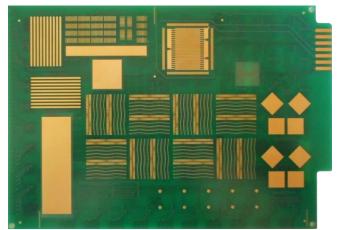


Figure 3. Test PCB Bottom Side

SOLDER PASTE PROPERTIES TESTED

Combining the layout of the PCB and a prescribed, nested test method enables the user to determine any of the following solder paste characteristics:

- 1. Transfer efficiency (Cpk)
- 2. Volume repeatability (Cpk)
- 3. Process capability (Cpk)
- 4. Peaking or dog-earring visual, and heights
- 5. Response to abandon time (Cpk)
- 6. Response to Stencil life (Cpk)
- 7. Wipe sensitivity (under wipe between prints) (Cpk)
- 8. Hot and cold slump (SPI) areas
- 9. Tack visual
- 10. Voiding BGA and QFN, Chip resistors (Visual/Xray)
- 11. Head-in-Pillow BGA, CSP (Visual/Xray)
- 12. Tombstoning Chip capacitor
- 13. Skewing Chip capacitor
- 14. Solder balling and beading Chip resistor (Visual/Xray)
- 15. Wetting to components (Visual)
- 16. Wetting to board surface finish (Visual)
- 17. Spread on board surface finish (IPC test)
- 18. Coalescence small components (Visual)
- 19. Reliability (SIR, off-line, ICT)
- 20. Reflow residue cosmetics (Test Engineering, offline)
- 21. Cleanability/Reliability (Ion Chromatography, offline)
- 22. Post-reflow materials compatibility (off-line)
- 23. Material compatibility (Underfills, Conformal Coatings)

The 20+ solder paste characteristics that can be evaluated in the test regimen represent the needs of most assemblers. However, special needs can be addressed by modifying the test plan, or even the PCB layout itself.

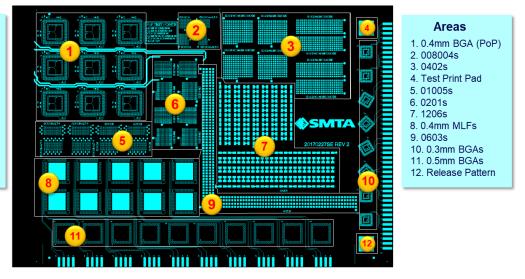
The chart in Figure 4 show how the characteristics are grouped into similar property categories.

| | Sold | er Paste (| Characteri | stics | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Print Characteristics | Stencil & Assembly Line Behavior | Reflow F | Properties | Testability | Reliability |
| | | | <u> </u> | | |
| Transfer Efficiency & Print Variation | Cold Slump | Wetting | Voiding | Residue | Surface Insulation Resistance |
| | | | | | |
| Wipe Frequency | Hot Slump | Spread | Head-in-Pillow | Post- Reflow Pin Test Window | Complete Removal of Residues When Neede |
| | | | | | |
| Abandon Time | Stencil Life | Coalescence | Tombstones or Skews | Contact Resistance | Removal Under Low-Standoff Components |
| | | | | | |
| Print Definition | Tack | Random Solder Balls | Joint Appearance | Test Fixture Maintenance | Post-Assembly Materials Compatibilit |
| | | | | | |
| | | Solder Beads or Mid-Chip Solder | Flux Residue Appearance | | |

Figure 4. Solder paste characteristics chart

Figures 5 and 6 show the CAD images of the test board, and highlight each section of component footprints

| 008004s2 | |
|-------------------|---|
| 01005s5 | |
| 0201s6 | |
| 0402s3 | |
| 0603s9 | |
| 1206s7 | |
| 0.3mm BGAs10 | |
| 0.4mm BGAs1 | |
| 0.5mm BGAs8 | |
| 0.4mm MLFs11 | |
| Test Print Pad4 | |
| Release Pattern12 | 2 |



Areas A. Slump B. SPI Slump

A. Slump
B. SPI Slump
C. Spread
D. IPC Slump
E. SIR
F. Print-to-Fail
C. Spread 25%

G. Spread, 25%H. Spread, 40%I. IPC Spread

Solder Ball

I. J.

Figure 5. Top (populated) side layout

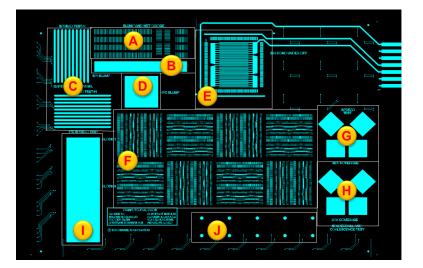


Figure 6. Bottom (unpopulated) side layout

For users specifically interested in transfer efficiency, the chart shown in Table 1 illustrates the area ratios for each land pattern at different stencil foil thicknesses.

| Component | Component Size Type | | Pad | l Size | Stencil Ap | erture Size | Area Ratios Stencil Thickness - mil (μm) | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------|--------------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|----------|--------|----------|---------|
| Imperial | Metric | | mil | μm | mil | μm | 2 (50) | 2.5 (68) | 3 (75) | 3.5 (88) | 4 (100) |
| 008004- ALT-1 | 0201M | Chip | 4.7 x 5.7 | 120 x 145 | 4.7 x 5.7 | 120 x 145 | 0.64 | 0.52 | 0.43 | 0.37 | 0.32 |
| 008004- ALT-1 Rev 1.0 | 0201M | Chip | 5.1 x 6.3 | 130 x 160 | 5.1 x 6.3 | 130 x 160 | 0.70 | 0.56 | 0.47 | 0.40 | 0.35 |
| 12 mil or 0.3mi | n pitch | BGA | 6 - round | 150 - round | 6 x 6 ¹ | 150 x 150 ¹ | 0.75 | 0.60 | 0.50 | 0.43 | 0.38 |
| 16 mil or 0.4m | n pitch | BGA | 7.5 - round | 190 - round | 7.5 x 7.5 ¹ | 190 x 190 ¹ | 0.94 | 0.75 | 0.63 | 0.54 | 0.47 |
| 01005 | 0402M | Chip | 8x8 (7 mil gap) | 200 x 200 | 8 x 8 | 200 x 200 | 1.00 | 0.80 | 0.67 | 0.57 | 0.50 |
| 01005- ALT-1 | 0402M | Chip | 8x8 (8 mil gap) | 200 x 200 | 8 x 8 | 200 x 200 | 1.00 | 0.80 | 0.67 | 0.57 | 0.50 |
| 20 mil or 0.5mr | n pitch | BGA | 10- round | 250 - round | 10 x 10 ¹ | 250 x 250 ¹ | 1.25 | 1.00 | 0.83 | 0.71 | 0.63 |

| Table 1 . Area Ratios | for PCB land | patterns at various | stencil foil thicknesses |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------|

¹ - Square apertures with radiused corners

EASY SETUP

The documentation package for the test kit includes:

- ODB++ file
- BOM and sample size calculator spreadsheet
- Stencil Gerbers
- Step-by-step instructions for 30 print DOE

Enter number of boards to populate in each of 10 print runs:

- Scorecard
- SPI and AOI programs as they become available

The test board should be no more difficult to program and set up as any new product; perhaps even easier due to the small amount of part numbers.

3

BOM and Sample Size calculator

An Excel spreadsheet displays component numbers and costs from a commercial dummy component provider³. The actual costs and the name of the provider have been omitted from Figure 7 to comply with anti-commercialism policies, but the actual web download will have the complete cost and provider information.

The calculator provides sample sizes based on the I/O of each component and displays them at the bottom of the sheet. Seeing the sample size and cost together can help make the tradeoffs between test materials cost and data quantity more transparent.



Kit Configurator for Miniaturization Test Board

| Comp Type | Pitch | I/O | Body Size | е Туре | Qty per board | # paste deposits/print | # of components | Unit | Cost Each Cost/board | Reflow Qty | Set up Qty | # Components or Reels | Kit Cost Item # | Description/ Component Name in ODB++ BOM |
|--|--------|-----|-----------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| GA | 0.3mm | 368 | 8mm | ChipArray - Very Thin | 8 | 2944 | 24 | Tray | | 3 | 12 | 36 | 31610 | A-CVBGA3683MM-8MM-DC-LF-305 |
| BGA/LGA | 0.4mm | 620 | 14mm | Thru Mold Via PoP | 9 | 5580 | 27 | Tray | | 3 | 12 | 39 | 31558 | A-TMV6204mm-14mm-DC-LF-125 |
| Bg | 0.5mm | 228 | 12mm | ChipArray - Very Thin | 10 | 2280 | 30 | Tray | | 3 | 12 | 42 | 31329 | A-CTBGA2285mm-12mm-DC-LF-305 |
| MLF/ QFN | 0.4mm | 100 | 12mm | Single Row MLF | 10 | 1000 | 30 | Tray | | 3 | 12 | 42 | 32202 | A-MLF100-12mm4mm-DC-Sn-T |
| | 1206 | 2 | | 0 Ohm Resistor | 50 | 100 | 150 | T&R | | 3 | reel | #DIV/0! | 16047 | 1206SMR-PA-5K-Sn-0 |
| ins in the second s | 1206 | 2 | | Capacitor | 50 | 100 | 150 | T&R | | 3 | reel | #DIV/0! | 16604 | 1206SMC-PL-4K-LF |
| s use capacitors use resistors | 0603 | 2 | | 0 Ohm Resistor | 50 | 100 | 150 | T&R | | 3 | reel | #DIV/0! | 16070 | 0603-SMR-PA-5K-Sn-0 |
| e rei | 0603 | 2 | | Capacitor | 50 | 100 | 150 | T&R | | 3 | reel | #DIV/0! | 16602 | 0603SMC-PA-4K-LF |
| s use | 0402 | 2 | | 0 Ohm Resistor | 400 | 800 | 1200 | T&R | | 3 | reel | #DIV/0! | 16069 | 0402SMR-PA-10K-Sn-0 |
| ete ate, lysis | 0402 | 2 | | Capacitor | 400 | 800 | 1200 | T&R | | 3 | reel | #DIV/0! | 16601 | 0402SMC-PA-10K-LF |
| Discretes fect rate, I II analysis | 0201 | 2 | | 0 Ohm Resistor | 400 | 800 | 1200 | T&R | | 3 | reel | #DIV/0! | 19865 | 0201SMR-PA-15K-Sn-0-P |
| defe ball | 0201 | 2 | | Capacitor | 400 | 800 | 1200 | T&R | | 3 | reel | #DIV/0! | 11710 | 0201SMC-PA-15K-LF-M |
| Discretes overall defect rate, use capacitor r solderball analysis use resistors | 01005 | 2 | | 0 Ohm Resistor | 400 | 800 | 1200 | T&R | | 3 | reel | #DIV/0! | 19921 | 01005SMR-PA-TRB-LF-0 |
| ove r so | 01005 | 2 | | Capacitor | 400 | 800 | 1200 | T&R | | 3 | reel | #DIV/0! | 19481 | 01005SMC-PL-TRB-LF |
| For o For | 008004 | 2 | | Resistor is not availabl | e at this time | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| | 008004 | 2 | | Capacitor | 400 | 800 | 1200 | T&R | | 3 | reel | 1200 | 19220 | 008004SMC-5K-LF |
| | | | | Total Paste Deposi | ts per board | 17804 | | | | | Kit Co | ost with 008004 | per run | |
| | | | | Total Solder Joints | | 53412 | | | | | Kit C | ost w/o 008004 | per run | 7 |
| | | | | Total Opportunities | s per run | 62524 | | | | | | | 05s are \$500 for 5K parts | |
| | | | | | | | | | | ~ | : | Reels of 008004 | 4s are \$2,000 for 5K part | s |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 005 and 008004 005 and 008004 | per run per board | |

Figure 7. Configurator, or BOM and sample size calculator

TEST EXECUTION

Designed-In Experiments

The PCB's topside layout has several DOEs embedded in it:

QFN Center Pad Voiding

- 5 aperture designs
- 2 replicates (10 components) + overprint on toes, as seen in Figure 8.
- 1206,0603
 - 1 variable vertical or horizontal mounting, user chooses components
 - 100 replicates (200 components)

0402,0201

- 3 variables resistor or capacitor, vertical or horizontal mounting, solder mask bridge or no solder mask bridge between pads.
- 100 replicates (800 components)

01005

- 3 variables resistor or capacitor, vertical or horizontal, different pad spacings (no room for solder mask bridges)
- 100 replicates (800 components)

008004

 2 variables – capacitors only, vertical or horizontal mounting, different pad sizes
 100 replicates (400 components)

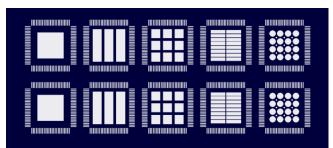


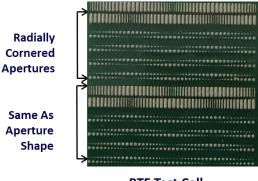
Figure 8. MLF aperture designs

The unpopulated side offers both standardized and original test patterns with the following sample sizes⁴:

- Slump:
 - Industry standard test pattern, n=1
 - Internally developed for visual inspection, n=240
 - Internally developed for automated solder paste inspection, n=60
- Solder Ball:
 - Industry standard test patterns, n=10
- Spread:
 - Industry standard test patterns, n=10
 - Internally developed, n=8
 - Internally developed, n=20
- SIR:
 - Industry standard test patterns, n=1
- Fine Feature Printing, also known as PTF (Print-To-Fail) Patterns

The eight PTF test cells produce 64 mask- or copper-defined circles and squares, and 32 copper-defined rectangles in each direction, with apertures at 1:1 and the same shape as the pad.

Each cell repeats the pattern twice. The top portion prints "squircles," or radially cornered apertures. The bottom portion prints apertures the same shape as the pads: square, circular or rectangular. This design is meant to demonstrate the effect of aperture design on deposition quality. Solder mask defined rectangles were intentionally omitted to utilize the space for better process-indicating features. An example of the test cell is shown in Figure 9.



PTF Test Cell 8 cells per print

Figure 9. Print-to-Fail (PTF) test cell

The radially cornered apertures more than 8 mils (200 μ m) wide have corner radii of 2 mils; apertures less than 8 mils wide have corner radii 25% of their width. The area ratios for apertures range from 3 to 15 mils is 0.19 to 0.94.

The majority of production facilities will be most interested in the feature ranges of 7 -10 mils, or area ratio ranges of 0.44 to 0.63, which represent the demands of the near term on the low end, and a baseline of well-controlled printing on the high end.

More documentation slump, solder ball, wetting and spread tests analysis will be included in the next technical paper on this topic.

Maximizing Test Efficiency

To gather the most data with the least resource expenditures, the tests have been nested, enabling the concurrent execution of multiple assessments.

First, the populated side is printed, placed and reflowed. The stencil is then set aside to introduce abandon time tests, and the unpopulated side is loaded up. Boards are printed and reflowed; then the paste gets kneaded to shear it for a fixed period of time. It is then printed and reflowed again to evaluate its stencil and production line life. After the postshear run on the unpopulated side, the populated side is reinstalled and the solder paste's response to abandon time – or how many prints it takes to return to a steady state and if

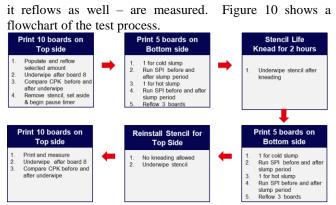


Figure 10. Nested test order

A copy of the DOE spreadsheet can be seen in Appendix A.

DATA ANALYSIS

The Scorecard

A scorecard helps the users customize their paste selection to fit their specific process or product needs.

Prior to executing the tests, the user reviews the solder paste characteristics tested on the PCB and determines each one's relative importance to their operation. For example, if an assembler runs high-volume production, then recovery from abandon time is far less important than it is to a low-volume operation that has many stops and starts.

After running the tests and compiling the data, the user then ranks each solder paste's characteristics relative to each other. The poorest performing product receiving a score of 1 and the best performing product receives the highest score, equal to the number of products in the trial. Typically four or five pastes are compared at a time. The rest are ranked in ascending order based on their performance. The relative ranking achieves three goals:

1. Smoothly blend objective data, like Cpk, with subjective data, such as solder joint appearance.

- 2. Easily compare tradeoffs between different formulations.
- 3. Provide a baseline with the current product and provides insight on what the assembler can expect when introducing a new selection.

The basic categories of solder paste performance include:

- Printability
- Reflow
- Testability
- Reliability
- Supplier Support and Value

The scorecard shown in Figure 11 breaks each major category into subcategories. Relative solder paste performance for each major category is judged by viewing their weighted subtotals at the bottom line of each section.

Complete weighted totals are shown at the bottom of the sheet. Typically, the best performer is the solder paste with the highest overall score. Sometimes, however, the runner up takes the prize. The highest scorer may have a disappointing flaw – such as high voiding, solder balling, graping, peaking, or low wipe frequency – that can't be tolerated.

It is not uncommon for a solder paste's performance to be great in one category yet mediocre, or even weak in another. Solder paste characteristics are balanced during formulation where often a particular characteristic is optimized. There are always performance tradeoffs, even in the most successful products.

SMT operations also have their strengths and weaknesses; therefore, finding the optimum solder paste for a specific process requires investigation of the properties most critical to the operation. The scorecard provides a data-driven method for examining and comparing such properties.

| Weighting | | | | | | | Ranking: |
|---------------------|--|---------|---------|----------|----------|--|--|
| 10- critic | | | | | | SMTA | 4 - Best |
| 7.5-Ver | | | | | | | 1 - Worst |
| Importa | | | | | | | In case of tie |
| 5-Import | | | | | • • • • | | both get equal ran |
| 2.5-Less Cri | | | | | • • | International | and next one |
| Importa | | | | | | | drops |
| 1-not Crit | ical | | | | | | (eg. 4,3,3,1) |
| | umbers in red are examples of user input | | Solder | Paste Sc | ore Card | - Rank Order for Each Solder Paste Characte | eristic |
| Weigh | | Paste A | Paste B | Paste C | Paste D | Criteria | Comments |
| | PRINTABILITY/PRODUCTION WORTHINESS | | | | | | |
| ſ | 10 Transfer Efficiency and Variation - Cpk | | | | | Cpk - goal is >2.0; >1.66 is also acceptable | Volumes of 8-12 mil features (AR 0.50 to 0.75) |
| ľ | 5 Wipe frequency requirements | | | | | Compare Cpks before and after wipe | 8 prints before wipe; 2 (or 12) prints after |
| ľ | 2.5 Recovery from Abandon Time | | | | | Compare Cpks before and after abandon | Cpk post-abandon and number of prints required to return to steady state |
| 33.5 | 2.5 Print Definition (peaking or dog ears) | | | | | Average heights or visual scale | Heights on QFN I/Os at comparable Transfer Efficiencies or Visual Scale if no SPI |
| | 1 Cold Slump | | | | | IPC or alternate patterns | Visual or SPI 20 minutes after printing (ambient) |
| | 2.5 Hot Slump | | | 1 | 1 | | Visual or SPI 20 minutes after printing (anotent) |
| | 5 Stencil Life | | | 1 | 1 | Cpk before and after 2 hour shear down | Cpk post-shear, also visual assessment of print definition |
| | 5 Tack | | | 1 | 1 | | Needed for XY movement and transport of PCBs, pre-reflow AOI is helpful |
| | Weighted Category Results | ; 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | | |
| | REFLOW | | | | | | |
| ſ | 7.5 Wetting | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Wetting test on copper pad or wetting to components | Wetting and spread are different |
| ŀ | 2.5 Spread | | | | | Spread test on copper pad or wetting to components | A component can wet but not spread, however, it will not spread if it doesn't we |
| ŀ | 5 Coalescence/graping | | | | | Assessment of joint surface, solder ball test | Smaller features more likely to grape, larger overprints less likely to coalesce |
| - | 7.5 Random solder balls | - | | | | Total quantity violating solder ball criteria | IPC - not large enough to bridge the smallest I/O conductor gap on the PCB |
| - | 5 Solder beads or mid-chip solder balls | | | | | Total quantity violating solder ball criteria | or alternate criteria set by assembler or OEM |
| 77.5 | 10 Voiding | | | | | Void % (typically <30%) and total number of voids | Usually, more smaller voids are preferable to fewer larger voids for any overall % |
| ŀ | 10 Head-In-Pillow | | | | | # of defects found at X-Ray | Multi-chip packages show non-traditional warpage and HiP locations |
| ŀ | 10 Tombstones/skews/positional errors | | | | | IPC Class 1, 2 or 3 defects or alternate criteria | Product dependent |
| - | 7.5 Joint Appearance | | | | | Wetting angle, reflectivity, ease of inspectability | Very subjective based on inspectors' eyes, example photos are important |
| | 5 Flux Residue Appearance | | | | | Amber or clear, brittle or sticky, spread | Subjective but example photos are very important |
| 1 | 7.5 Compatibility with current AOI | | | | | # of false calls | Too many false calls can require tweaking parameters for all production program |
| | Weighted Category Results | ; 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | | |
| | TESTABILITY | | Ū | Ū | | | |
| ſ | Residue probe-ability | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Visual or tactile; flying probe if available | Residues should comply but not shatter |
| 0 | Post-reflow pin probe time window | - | | | | Number of days before false fails occur | Depends on paste, heat exposure, reflow environment, ambient environment |
| v | Contact resistance | - | | | | Resistance measurements | Initial, and track increase over days after reflow |
| - | Test Fixture Maintenance | | | | | | |
| | • | | | | | Test Engineering analysis or assessment | Can be subjective |
| | Weighted Category Results | 1 | | | | | |
| | RELIABILITY | - | - | | | | |
| | Surface Insulation Resistance | | | | | | 3rd party verification in SIR chamber |
| 0 | Complete removal of residues | | | I | 1 | | ROSE tests overall wash process; IC tests in specific areas |
| | Residue removal under low-standoff | | | I | 1 | Ion Chromatography | Upper limits vary by product and test method |
| | Post-assembly materials compatiblity | | | | 1 | Specific to post-assembly process | Underfill, conformal coating, potting |
| | Weighted Category Results | | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| r | SUPPLIER RATING AND VALUE PROPOSITION | | 1 | | 1 | L | |
| | Distribution/ Supply Chain | | | | l | | 2 different lots always available |
| | Technical Support | | | | I | Tech support: responsiveness, accessability and resource | |
| 0 | Shelf Life/ Storage Conditions | | | | | Assmembler sets criteria | WS shorter shelf life than NC. Some need refrigeration and others don't. |
| | Reclaim Services | | | | 1 | | Very important if wave soldering |
| | Compaitibility w/ under stencil chemistry | | | | | Flux dissolves in current chemistry for under wipe | IPA is not compatible with all NC lead-free pastes |
| | Lead version available same flux vehicle | | | | 1 | | If using both alloys, both pastes would have similar print properties |
| | Weighted Category Results | ; O | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Fotal points | | | | | | _ | |
| 111 | | Paste A | Paste B | Paste C | Paste D | | |
| | OVERALL WEIGHTED TOTAL: | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| | | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | |
| | Normalized on 1-4 scale (4=best) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | | |

Figure 11. Solder paste evaluation scorecard

SUMMARY

The intent of the test kit concept is to make solder paste testing fast, easy, and as straightforward as possible. All the pieces of the kit were designed with ease of use in mind.

The common test vehicle will enable different users to compare experimental results, leading to faster process development and dissemination of knowledge.

FUTURE WORK

A website where experimental results can be uploaded and essential files for testing can be downloaded, is currently under construction.

The downloadable files will include:

- Kit configurator, or BOM cost-sample size spreadsheet
- Stencil Gerbers
- Pick and Place files
- ODB++ files

Scorecard

When the website is complete, it can be linked to from the SMTA main website. Until then, files can be obtained by emailing the author (<u>chrys@sheaengineering.com</u>) directly.

The website is expected to host uploaded experimental results. Investigators will be able to share, review, or post suggestions in a discussion forum which will also be on the website.

Additionally, PCB support tooling has been designed for MPM, DEK and EKRA printers. It is available through a quick-turn printer tooling manufacturer⁵.

AVAILABILITY

As of February 2019, the first production lot of PCBs are on order and will undergo a First Article Inspection prior to their commercial release. The kit's elements are complete, with the exception of the reference manual and the publication of the statistical methods. Based on the best information at the time of publication, PCBs should be available by the beginning of April 2019, with the website up shortly thereafter. The reference manual and statistical methods are anticipated to be available online by late summer 2019.

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Appendix A Nested Solder Paste Evaluation Steps



Solder Paste Qualification Tests Page 1

| | Start Time: | | | | | | |
|--------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|
| | | | Print | | Separation | | Squuegee |
| | Print Speed: | | Pressure: | | Speed: | | Length |
| | | | | P | opulated (T | op) Side | |
| | Print Number | Board/Barcode Number | SPI index Number | SPI Time Stamp | Populate (Y/N) | Reflow (Y/N) | Observations/Comments |
| | | KNEAD TO ACHE | | STATE and CLE | AN STENCIL | | Underwipe 2-3X. Start print with back->front |
| | 1 | 001 | | | Y | Y | POPULATE AND REFLOW |
| | 2 | 002 | | | Y | Y | POPULATE AND REFLOW |
| No | 3 | 003 | | | Y* | Y* | HOLD AND POPULATE/REFLOW WITH SECOND SET |
| Reflow | 4 | 004 | | | N | Ν | |
| and | 5 | 005 | | | N | Ν | |
| nt a | 6 | 006 | | | Ν | Ν | |
| Print | 7 | 007 | | | Ν | Ν | |
| | 8 | 008 | | | Ν | Ν | |
| | | Clean | stencil with We | et-Vac-Vac wip | e | | |
| | 9 | 009 | | | Ν | Ν | |
| | 10 | 010 | | | Ν | Ν | |
| | Stop Time: | | | | | | |

>>> Remove Stencil for Abandon Time Test <<<

Set stencil on another frame, paste side up, and cover it with cardboard from the stencil box. Set timer for 4 hours.

Solder Paste Qualification Tests Page 2

| | Start Time: | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | Unpo | pulated (B | ottom) Side | e | | | | |
| | Print Number | Board/Barcode Number | SPI index Number | SPI Time Stamp | Cold Slump | Hot Slump | Observations/Comments | | | | |
| e. | | KNEAD TO ACHE | | STATE and CLE | | Underwipe 2-3X. Start print with back->front | | | | | |
| l Life | 11 | 101 | | | Y | N | SPI, Set timer for 20 minutes - SPI | | | | |
| Stencil | | Clean s | tencil with 1 W | /et-Vac-Vac wip | e | | SPI->Place in box oven at 182°C for 20 minutes and set timer - >SPI | | | | |
| Ste | 12 | 102 | | | N | Y | SPI->Place in box oven at 182°C for 20 minutes and set timer - >SPI | | | | |
| pu | | Clean s | tencil with 1 W | /et-Vac-Vac wip | | | | | | | |
| e dı | 13 | 103 | | | Ν | N | Reflow | | | | |
| Slump | 14 | 104 | | | Ν | Ν | Reflow | | | | |
| t, S | 15 | 105 | | | N | N | Reflow | | | | |
| Print, | Stop Time: | | | | | | | | | | |
| d | 11 | 101a | | | Post-slump SPI of print 22 | | 2nd SPI for slump readings | | | | |
| | 12 | 102a | | | | Post-slump SPI of print 23 | 2nd SPI for slump readings | | | | |

>>> Knead continuously for 2 hours <<<

Set printer for continuous knead or maximum number of knead strokes. Set timer.

Solder Paste Qualification Tests Page 3

>>> After continuous kneading, underwipe the stencil 2-3X to remove the excess solder paste <<<

| | Start Time: | | | | | | |
|---------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | | | | ottom) Side | 2 | | |
| | Print Number | Board/Barcode Number | SPI index Number | SPI Time Stamp | Cold Slump | Hot Slump | Observations/Comments |
| | | | CLEAN STE | NCIL | | | Underwipe 2-3X. Start print with back->front |
| Life | 16 | 206 | | | Y | Ν | SPI Set timer for 20 minutes - SPI |
| il L | | Clean s | tencil with 1 W | et-Vac-Vac wip | | | |
| Stencil | 17 | 207 | | | N | Y | SPI->Place in box oven at 182°C for 20 minutes and set timer - >SPI |
| d St | | Clean s | tencil with 1 W | et-Vac-Vac wip | | | |
| and | 18 | 208 | | | Ν | Ν | Reflow |
| Slump | 19 | 209 | | | Ν | N | Reflow |
| | 20 | 210 | | | Ν | Ν | Reflow |
| Print, | | RE | MOVE AND CLE | AN STENCIL | | | Clean in offline stencil cleaner and return to storage |
| Р | Stop Time: | | | | | | |
| | 16 | 206a | | | Post-slump SPI of print 127 | | 2nd SPI for slump readings |
| | 17 | 207a | | | | Post-slump SPI of print 128 | 2nd SPI for slump readings |

>>> Reinstall Top Side Stencil <<<

Do NOT knead

| | Start Time: | | | | | | |
|--------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--|----------------|-----------------|---|
| | | | | | | | |
| | Print Number | Board/Barcode Number | SPI index Number | SPI Time Stamp | Populate (Y/N) | Reflow (Y/N) | Observations/Comments |
| | | ΝΟ ΚΝ | EADING!!! | CLEAN STEN | ICIL | | Underwipe wet-vac-vac. S |
| | 21 | 301 | | | Y | Y | POPULATE AND REFLOW |
| | 22 | 302 | | | Y | Y | POPULATE AND REFLOW |
| N 0 | 23 | 303 | | | Ν | Ν | POPULATE AND REFLOW BOARD #3 FROM EARLIER |
| Reflow | 24 | 304 | | | Ν | Ν | |
| and | 25 | 305 | | | Ν | Ν | |
| nt a | 26 | 306 | | | Ν | Ν | |
| Print | 27 | 307 | | | Ν | Ν | |
| | 28 | 308 | | | Ν | Ν | |
| | | Clean | stencil with We | et-Vac-Vac wip | e | | |
| | 29 | 309 | | | Ν | Ν | |
| | 30 | 310 | | | Ν | Ν | |
| | | REI | MOVE AND CLE | Clean in offline stencil cleaner and return to storage | | | |
| | Stop Time: | | | | | | |

Solder Paste Qualification Tests Page 4

Tests are complete